

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 11, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors.”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie, Kay Tarapolsi, Jill Schmidt, Una McAlinden, Heidi Houghton (arrived at 7:05), Phil Teller, Latha Sambamurti, Kate Cochran, Roy Leban

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Youth advocates Joscelyn Doleac and Nicole Rollofson

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Roy Lehner, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE PRESENT: Kris Snider

.

AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

Notations:

- LaBrunerie announced the resignation of Commissioner Una McAlinden. Bettencourt thanked McAlinden for her contribution to RAC and for leaving a “legacy the City is very proud of” (the curriculum project).
- Leban distributed materials for the Seattle Jewish Film Festival.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of February 12, 2004 as submitted by:
Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi
Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Visual Arts:

- Staff Report: Metro Bus Shelter

Arts Education:

- Diversity Exhibit

Performing / Literary Arts:

- Derby Days
- Delete Redmond Lights

Staff Reports

- Photo Donation

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair

None

B. Continuing Business – Task List

Commissioners marked their task completion dates.

C. Chair/Vice Chair Voting

Motion for approval of Phil Teller for RAC Chairperson by: Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner McAlinden

Motion carried: 9-0 unanimous

Motion for approval of Kay Tarapolsi for RAC Vice Chair by: Commissioner Teller

Second by: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried: 9-0 unanimous

D. New RAC Agenda Format

Schmidt handed out a draft of the new RAC agenda format to include the mission statement and goals. She noted the date should be added to the upper right corner (per Tarapolsi's suggestion). LaBrunerie asked for the format to be justified for better centering.

Motion for approval of the new RAC Agenda format by: Commissioner Tarapolsi
Second by: Commissioner Schmidt
Motion carried: 9-0 unanimous

E. Annual Report

Schmidt reported she has rewritten all of the Annual Report copy for the Visual Arts Committee. The Performing Arts Committee, Grant Committee, and Arts Education Committee copy has been submitted. She requested *copy for Literary Arts as well as the letter from Chair LaBrunerie. She will send all the information to LaBrunerie, with a 'cc' to Tarapolsi.* The Outdoor Sculpture Garden was included in the write-up. *Tarapolsi will contact Richard Ruiz about designing the report.* Schmidt noted the statistics need to be completed as well.

F. Web site Update

Leban reported no change on the web site.

G. Fund Raising – Discussion

Houghton reported that she, Schmidt, and Skillingstead met to discuss fund raising questions as related to the Visual Arts Committee. The committee concluded it could not do funding raising by itself. However, there could be partnership opportunities for certain projects, e.g., with matching funds, donations, etc., but an arts festival, for example, could not be used for a fund raising event.

Cochran led a discussion on fund raising with Commissioners. Commissioners' comments regarding project funding hindrances:

- Visual Arts has used all of its budget—as well as Skillingstead's time—with its current projects.
 - Until a project is taken out, there is no staff time or money to do anything new. RAC can either do what they are doing now, or drop a project to do something else.
 - Maintenance of artwork reduces that amount available to buy new artwork.
 - 1% for art is the only funding source.
- Without additional outside sources, all Performing Arts would have to be scaled down. Safeco contributions have been withdrawn; Microsoft donations are still TBD.
- Arts Education Committee has not determined their goals for this year, and consequently, do not know funding needs yet. AEC did its own fund raising last year by partnering with LWSD.

Cochran summarized that either RAC would need to partner, or raise funds from outside sources. Houghton and McAlinden emphasized that RAC cannot grow or be maintained

without funding. Schmidt suggested sending letters to inform City Council, the Mayor, and Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director.

Teller suggested asking the City to allow RAC to obtain funding in other ways. LaBrunerie agreed that RAC needed to ask the City, reminding Commissioners that the Mayor, in her previous visit with RAC, encouraged them to ask.

Schmidt urged that RAC must receive more money to increase staff time available to support the RAC projects and programs. Bettencourt offered an alternative staffing solution: Hire contractors to help Skillingstead, and Tarapolsi, too.

Commissioners agreed they would like to go to the City to see if they would either increase funding, or support RAC getting other forms of funding. Based on Council's response, RAC would come up with a business plan to look for other ways, e.g., grants, partnerships, etc.

Houghton noted that to add a fund raising role on top of administering programs would overwhelm Commissioners. Teller suggested giving grant money to organizations to have them do work for RAC. Houghton noted that if the Visual Arts Committee is going to proceed with fund raising, the City would have to have a coordinated fund raising plan.

Commissioners considered the best way to inform City government leaders and the public. Cochran proposed first seeing how receptive the City Council would be; RAC may not need to go to the public if the City was receptive. McAlinden advocated the best way would be for RAC to go to a City Council meeting, then the public would hear at the same time. Commissioners could then follow up with a meeting with each of the council members.

Skillingstead asked if Commissioners would like to set up a study session with Council or a joint meeting. Bettencourt reported that it is time for the City's budget cycle preparations, thus Council and Department heads would be soon receiving an economic picture from the Mayor's office. Bettencourt proposed therefore to first meet with the Director, informing him of RAC priorities, to get his input and support. ***Cochran, Teller, and staff will set up a meeting with Hopkins as a starting point.***

VI. Visual Arts

A. Project(s) Status

1. Grass Lawn Park Artist Recommendation

Houghton reported on the results of the public comment period for the three artist selections for Grass Lawn Park:

- Hai Ying Wu's stainless steel sculpture, *Field of Dream[sic]*, received the most favorable comments.
- Ken Turner's tennis players proposal came in second.
- Jan Uchytíl's gateway/entrance piece received the least favorable comments, noting the park was not landscaped to need a gate. Houghton suggested bringing Uchytíl's art in at the beginning at other projects, e.g., City Hall, where a gate would be more appropriate.

The Visual Arts Committee recommended Wu's piece.

Motion for approval of Hai Ying Wu's sculpture, *Field of Dream*, for Grass Lawn Park by: Commissioner Schmidt
Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi
Motion carried: 9-0 unanimous

Schmidt reported the total cost of the piece was \$28,334, which was less than what the budget was for the project.

2. Art Outside the Box Recommendation

Schmidt reported that Art Outside the Box is not going forward due to lack of funding and available staff time for the entire program. She noted there is little point in doing the pilot if the whole program cannot be done. ***The Mayor will be informed. Schmidt will draft an email to Skillingstead and Skillingstead will distribute to Bettencourt, Hopkins, and the Mayor.***

3. February 23, 2004 Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

Attendees: Houghton, Pam Rembold, Skillingstead, Schmidt and Tarapolsi (via remarks given earlier to Schmidt)

- Art Outside the Box (AOB)
 - Reality Check/plusses
 - AOB pilot has budget and can be accomplished.
 - Project direction plan established.
 - Reality check/minuses
 - VA budget is stretched because of obligations (maintenance of art collection, outdoor sculpture exhibit, etc).
 - Project will require management and money.
 - Staff has no time to manage project unless some other project is discontinued (sculpture garden or indoor gallery).
 - Commissioners cannot sign contracts, so only manage a portion of the project.

- *Conclusion:* Do not do AOB pilot unless project can exist. Project cannot exist unless something is dropped. VA committee does not want to drop sculpture garden or indoor gallery.
- Additionally, there is neither budget nor staff time for almost any other VA project beyond percent for art projects.
- *Recommendation* for RAC: Send notice to Mayor and Council that VA cannot do any prospective projects unless more staff time is available.
- Photo Donation update:
 - Tammi DiDimenico accepts conditions to donate photos for display at ORSCC. Skillingstead will show samples at next RAC meeting.
- Art at Municipal Campus: Some must be removed during construction
 - Senior Center pieces (three Zebold sculptures) can be covered.
 - Fibonacci 3D: check if LWSD would take for Admin Bldg.
 - *Poised for Flight*: recommend placement in front of ORSCC.
- Sculpture Garden:
 - Recommend applying for tourism grant in fall so PA can apply for funds for Arts in Parks.
- City Hall display:
 - Houghton has display idea/budget for Jr. High art at current City Hall.
 - Check to see how long current building will be standing to see if we should do this project or wait until new building.
- VA chair:
 - Schmidt can remain chair only until March 5, 2005.
 - Campus project will need commissioner input beyond March 5, 2005.
 - Recommendation: Get a commissioner to commit to VA chair.
- Next VA meeting:
 - Schmidt will be out of town until March 28, so next VA meeting will be March 29

B. Funding/Marketing

None

C. New Business

1. Municipal Campus Master Plan

Kris Snider, Hewitt Architects, landscape architect for the Central Park Campus Plan and City Hall, reported the January 29 Charrette generated a set of goals for the Campus and Master Plan, along with a summary of program amenities. Graphics and language is on City's web site.

Snider reviewed "Principles and Goals," also produced from the Charrette. The Park Board meeting in April will congeal information gained from the March meetings with

Commissions and Design Review Board, producing the favored alternative of the three. Snider reviewed the three alternatives for Commissioners:

Alternative A:

- Takes theme of the River, stretches it into the site
- Provides a linear water element
- Goes back to origins of original landscape with native planting
- More dense with taller trees (may require more lighting)
- Connected by meandering water and paths
- Open spaces along the stream
- Indigenous plants/landscape
- Hardscape in front of City Hall

Alternative A-1

- Designed per request of Department of Natural Resources (an amplification of Alternative 1)
- Provides reservoirs for the storm water sediment to fall out and water to get taken back to the river, i.e., a bio-filtration system
- The system would always have water in it

Alternative B

- A combo of taking up some of the indigenous side of the river and bringing some of the urban in to meet it
- Bars of indigenous plantings
- Bars of urban landscape, plainer, gardens, open space
- More access to river, visual and physical
- Outlook: a “heron house” viewpoint, serving as a “beacon”
- Integrates a larger plaza
- Invites people off the trail
- Interactive water feature
- Can see through everything, making it more safe and maintainable

Alternative C:

- Pushes the urban theme all the way to the river
- Strong axial pieces
- A wood deck by the river
- Water in several places, relating to the “rooms” (segments)
- Ordered landscape, an urban walk to the river, joining to a natural system

Commissioner and staff comments:

- Schmidt:
 - Favors A or C in terms of space for art
 - To give citizens more options, need more space for performances

- C has more advantage for RAC
- Tarapolsi
 - B is too straight
 - C has an angular motion and A has a circular motion: both could be used for art
 - Kids fountains will draw
 - Do not place landscape too high on apartment side of art mound; rather, make it visually accessible
- Teller
 - Suggested the water feature proposal with an overflow: Summertime would have a closed water feature; winter would have a stormwater settling pond that daylight into the river
 - The Saturday Market lends itself to C
 - Echo a stage on the other side of river from audience on City Hall side
 - Saturday Market, which lends itself to a community gathering spot, could be done at a crossroads/pavilion
 - Many other cities have this kind of feel as alternative C: gives credence to what is going on in other parts of the country
 - Place artificial “boulders” (that look like real rocks) to attach art to them
- LaBrunerie
 - Build in settings for sculpture garden, i.e., concrete pads/blocks in the ground
 - Alternative C provides opportunity to draw people in
 - Opportunity to identify Redmond with heron rookery
 - Do not use a soft wood decking if putting performance equipment on it
 - Change art mount contouring to be visible from street
- Leban
 - Provide more curvature in the paths, “un-break” the buildings, use long straight ideas balanced with curves
 - Make the hard surface a performance space opportunity, also, able to flip/flop with green open space if desired: a single level, multi-purpose space
- Bettencourt
 - Give as much space as possible for performances and equipment
 - Concern for public safety in A (e.g., during nighttime programming)
- Houghton
 - C is more interesting and versatile for people
 - High maintenance issues with A
 - Does not see kids playing in a filtration system (A-1)
 - Redmond will grow in C’s alternative (not A)
- Cochran
 - C is a stronger design choice
- McAlinden
 - Provide places to put sculptures under trees
 - Orient performances spaces so sun is not in eyes
 - Area by the river could be a stage

Tarapolsi summed up RAC's priorities: (1) performance space, (2) sculpture garden, and (3) Saturday market. Commissioners concurred.

Snider noted that program elements have not been built into the alternatives yet; however, alternative A would be the most difficult for program elements because it is broken up with native plantings. Progressions of the alternatives would be put on the web site for Commissioners review.

LaBrunerie thanked Snider and invited him to return to RAC.

2. Dudley Carter Artwork

Schmidt reported that the appraisal came in between \$9,500 and \$11,500 for the Dudley Carter art piece that was offered for purchase from Donna Minor, a citizen. The owner would like it to remain in the City. Schmidt will give first choice to the Redmond Library, since they might want to add to their Carter collection. Schmidt will wait for the library's response to the offer before considering other options. Skillingstead reported that the City is still working with the County to obtain the Dudley Carter house, which has five art pieces that would become the City's.

3. Bus Shelter

Schmidt reported a bus shelter is being proposed. Skillingstead reported Sarah Stiteler, Planning Department, stated it will happen at Redmond Way in front of Pizza Hut. The Visual Arts Committee is doing an invitational, contacting artists already known. Skillingstead stated it is a "design invitation." They are looking for laser-cut steel to eventually be on all shelters around the City.

Skillingstead asked Commissioners for themes and/or motif ideas that would appear across the top, noting it would be one theme to tell the public that "this is Redmond." One theme would be less expensive to implement on all the shelters. Commissioners suggested the following: transportation, wheels, tree lines, mountains, and/or the type of artwork done for ORSCC. They did not want to see bikes or salmon.

Skillingstead will work with Stiteler to get specs for invitations to get the project done by June. The Visual Arts Committee will take this on; it will be a topic to finalize at their March 29 meeting.

D. Staff Reports

1. Fire Station 11 Plaza and Art Dedication

Skillingstead will comprise a script for the April 1, 2004, 2:00 p.m. dedication ceremony for the Fire Station Plaza. She has requested media coverage from the

Eastside Journal and Sarah Koenig from the *Redmond Reporter*. A press release has been done. ***She will forward the release to Commissioners and the artist.*** The artist and members from the fire department will be present. The piece was permanently installed.

The art bench, created by artist Michele Van Syke, will be donated by the Redmond Rotary. The City Council must approve the donation in an ordinance. Skillingstead has prepared the ordinance; it will go to Council on 3/16/04 for approval. Though the money would be given earlier, it could be that a check would formally be given to the City from the Rotary on Redmond Arts Day. Staff is looking at a June date for dedication for the bench.

2. PRO Plan Arts Update

Parks Planning Division is working on the PRO Plan update, to include a separate art section. Skillingstead gave Commissioners a copy of the first rough draft that was given to the Park Board. Skillingstead updated the old arts plan to give language they could include in a condensed form. ***Commissioners were asked to review and make comments to Skillingstead.*** She noted it does not take the place of a cultural plan; rather, the PRO Plan is what the City uses to obtain large grants for land acquisitions, etc.

3. Perrigo Park Update

Skillingstead reported the art columns are installed at Perrigo, but problems have occurred. She will work with Parks and the contractor to resolve the issues and move forward.

VII. Arts Education / Grants

A. Project(s) Status

- Arts Education Committee chair position:
 - Transitioning from current chair McAlinden, to interim chair Cochran.
- Ideas to reduce the committee work load:
 - Set up meeting with Julie Goldsmith to see if by offering support and funding others to do the work, the number of trainings could possibly double.
 - Institute a grant for Redmond teachers to encourage them to teach the lessons, to support how to develop the criteria for that, and to define expectations for the teachers. Jeff Johnson is working on a ballpark value. Possibly, rather than give teachers the materials, give a grant for supplies.
- Curriculum book
 - Lesson book sales: approximately \$800
 - McAlinden will proof and edit the K-2 book to get it reprinted. (She noted she will endeavor to be an ad hoc supporter for the Arts Education Committee)

- McAlinden and Leban met with Ross Hunter to show him the book. He displayed interest and desire to get it to Terry Bergeson. However, it would need to go through Ann Rene Joseph first, to show intentions to work with and support her.
- McAlinden will be an advocate for the books to go state-wide.
- Gretchen Johnston, Arts Alliance, has been asked how to manage and channel others' support so as to effectively get the job done.
- Panel discussion at the Cultural Congress:
 - Schmidt will be on the panel; LaBrunerie will work with her on a presentation.
- Art docent
 - An art docent meeting will be held. Jeff will work on it with Schmidt.
 - Some of the lessons will be modeled there.
 - Cornelia will stay on the Committee through the docent meeting.
- Bellevue Philharmonic Concert
 - Commissioners were invited to a sponsor's luncheon, since last year they gave \$500 to the young people's concert performance.

B. Funding//Marketing

None

C. New Business

None

D. Youth Advocate Report

Doleac and Rollofson were not present at this meeting.

E. Grants

Tarapolsi reported the deadline for the Arts Education Grant's second round is April 23, 2004.

F. Diversity Exhibit

Skillingstead reported the Diversity Exhibit, previously shown at the Redmond Library, is now on display at City Hall through the end of the month, and invited all to see it. The student artist project was a recipient of an Arts Education Grant.

VIII. Performing / Literary Arts

A. Project(s) Status

1. Arts in the Parks

Sambamurti reported she has been in contact with Kelley Gast from Redmond Town Center, whose summer festival theme this year is jazz. Kelly asked Sambamurti to

select a smooth jazz artist, which she has chosen as Darren Motamedy. Comcast will be sponsoring the event for Town Center.

2. Winter Performance Series Update

- The final performance in the winter series will be *theatre simple* (“52 Pick Up”) on March 27. All were invited to attend. Commissioners may email ideas for marketing to Sambamurti.
- Approximately 150 attended the *Circus Contraption* performance. Performers were pleased with the show and venue. Sambamurti would like to use the high school performance center again in the future.

3. March 8, 2004 Pre-Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

Attendees: Latha P. Sambamurti & Pat T.Pattabhiraman

- Winter Performance Series (WPS'04):
 - Three performances done; one more to go (*theater simple*).
 - *Circus Contraption* show was successful and was well-attended. Please see post-show reports (emailed earlier) for more details on the past shows.
 - Beginning work on *theater simple* arrangements by the end of the week of March 8-12.
- Arts in the Parks (2004) (AitP'04):
 - Further contact has been made with selected artists. Questionnaires have been sent out regarding their availability, fees, technical requirements etc. Most have responded.
 - The artists have been divided into two groups: one for Sunday evening performances and the other for Wednesday afternoon lunchtime shows. The latter group has been told that their performance will be a go, subject to obtaining funding.
 - A selection of these artists has been sent to Kelley Gast of the Redmond Town Center for her to select staging at the Town Center. Yet to hear back from her.
 - We have dropped the idea of a teen band for this time, since we were not able to arrive at mutually-acceptable terms of joint venture with the Redmond Teen Center.
 - Worked with Pam Rembold, Chair of the Sammamish Arts Commission (per her request) to help them with selecting artists for a performance series in Sammamish.
 - We explored the idea of block-booking some of the artists we chose for the Redmond AitP'04 for shows in Sammamish. The idea hasn't panned out so far, because of their funding limitations. Nevertheless, Sambamurti sees this as a promising way of reducing artist fee costs in the future.
- Funding:

- Winter Performance Series 2004: The drive has concluded, as the series is about to come to an end.
- Arts in the Parks 2004 spot sponsorship: Letters and target businesses will be ready this week. Letters will go out next week from Skillingstead's office.
- Cultural Tourism grant: Preparing an application with Skillingstead for funding for the 2004 Arts in the Parks. At present, in the preliminary stages. Aiming to have it ready in a week.
- Marketing:
 - Publicity/marketing work for *theater simple* will begin early next week.
- Derby Days:
 - Thinking of including a band of Bhangra dancers and drummers to accompany the Arts Commissioners in the Derby Days parade. Bhangra is an extremely vibrant, lively and high-energy folk/popular dance in colorful costumes from the Punjab region of India. Sambamurti is in preliminary talks with prospective artists.
 - Also planning a small booth of mehndi (applying decorative patterns of henna on the palm) artists for Derby Days. Sambamurti is in preliminary talks with some prospective artists.

B. Funding/Marketing

1. Winter Performance Series Attendance and Advertising Feedback

Postponed.

C. New Business

1. Derby Days

Sambamurti suggested RAC set up a booth during the event. She proposed bringing in an artist who could apply “pretend” tattoos on kids’ hands, and member(s) from each committee could man the booth, spending four hours each with the artist.

Commissioner comments regarding the Derby Days event:

- A booth was not successful in past years.
- Kids were left at the event; people did not show interest or awareness in RAC goals or endeavors.
- For the time spent, RAC presence did not make a difference; people wanted to be entertained.
- Too much going on elsewhere at the event.

Commissioners agreed that instead of a booth, they would walk in the parade and pass out flyers like they did last year—a successful and fun event participation.

Sambamurti suggested adding a dance group from India in the parade; Commissioners agreed. RAC members could also come in costume.

Skillingstead clarified that if a booth was done, it must be manned for the entire time. *She suggested Sambamurti give the information to Terri Edgar to see if they would want to adopt the idea apart from RAC.*

VIII. Staff Reports

A. Art Video

LaBrunerie asked regarding making duplicates of the art video. Skillingstead reported it would take about \$200 to make copies. Schmidt noted the money should come from Visual Arts Committee. *Teller volunteered to donate 100 10-minute blank tapes. Skillingstead will get the tapes duplicated; Visual Arts Committee will provide funding.*

B. Photo Donation

Skillingstead showed samples of an artist's photographs. The artist would like to donate the photos to the ORSCC gallery to be displayed at the coffee bar by the blank wall. The artist did not want to be part of the rotating gallery show because the pieces were not for sale. The artist's studio would not be mentioned in the display, just her name as the donor. The Visual Arts Committee accepted the idea of the donation as long as it was not a commercial endorsement.

Commissioners hesitated to accept the donation based on the following: (1) the photos are portraits, not art, and (2) the display would be advertising for the artist. By vote, Commissioners unanimously opposed associating with the display. *Skillingstead would inform the artist the donation would not be accepted.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Teller

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
April 8, 2004**

**Old Redmond School House Community Center
7:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: March 11, 2004

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Kris Snider	119 Pine St Seattle	206-624-8154